

seconds. Once it is no longer able to make the connection, a determination is made that the portable terminal is out of the range of communication with the printer.

It is respectfully submitted that this disclosure fully supports, and provides a written description of, the subject matter recited in claims 67 and 68. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 46-66 and 69-71 were rejected on the basis of the Lazaridis et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 7,000,001). It is respectfully submitted that, even if this patent is given the benefit of the filing date of September 12, 2000, based upon provisional application No. 60/232,037, it does not qualify as prior art against the present application. In support of this assertion, submitted herewith is an unsigned version of a Declaration pursuant to 35 C.F.R. §1.131, which establishes that the inventor was in possession of the claimed subject matter prior to September 12, 2000, and his representatives were diligent in constructively reducing the invention to practice, in the form of a Japanese patent application that was filed on September 28, 2000. A signed version of the Declaration will be submitted, as soon as it becomes available to Applicants' undersigned representative.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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